

Appl. No.: 10/734,686  
Page 2

**Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An abrasion and wear resistant fabric assembly comprising:  
a flexible substrate having a top surface; and  
  
a plurality of non-overlapping plates comprising a polymeric resin arranged in a repeating pattern and printed on, affixed to, and permeating the top surface of the substrate;[[,]]  
  
wherein the plates have a substantially uniform thickness of approximately 5 to 2040 mils, ~~and wherein the plates~~ and define a plurality of continuous gaps having an approximately uniform width between adjacent plates.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~abrasion and wear resistant~~ fabric assembly of claim 1, wherein the substantially uniform thickness is approximately 5 to [[10]]20 mils.
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~abrasion and wear resistant~~ fabric assembly of claim 1, wherein the width of each gap is approximately 5 to [[20]]40 mils, ~~and wherein the plates are~~ polygonal ~~comprise polymeric resin~~, and ~~wherein the substrate comprises a woven fabric~~.
4. (Original) The fabric assembly of claim 3, wherein the plates each have a maximum dimension in the range of 20 to 200 mils.
5. (Withdrawn) The fabric assembly of claim 3, wherein the plates are identical.
6. (Original) The fabric assembly of claim 3, wherein the plates each have a diameter in the range of 20 to 100 mils.
7. (Currently Amended) The fabric assembly of claim of claim [[5]]1, wherein the plates are each shaped as a polygon.

Appln. No.: 10/734,686  
Page 3

8. (Original) The fabric assembly of claim 7, wherein the polygon is an equilateral hexagon.
9. (Original) The fabric assembly of claim 8, wherein the equilateral hexagon has a diameter in the range of 20 to 100 mils.
10. (Original) The fabric assembly of claim 9, wherein the diameter is in the range of 20 to 80 mils.
11. (Original) The fabric assembly of claim 5, wherein the plates have a curved shape.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Withdrawn) The fabric assembly of claim 3, wherein the plates are non-identical relative to each other.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Currently Amended) The fabric assembly of claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein the polymeric resin is epoxy.
- 16-19. (Cancelled)
20. (Previously Presented) The fabric assembly of claim 3, wherein the flexible substrate comprises at least one of polyester, cotton, Kevlar®, and nylon.
- 21-23. (Cancelled)
24. (Withdrawn) The fabric assembly of claim 1, wherein the flexible substrate comprises a non-woven material.
25. (Withdrawn) The fabric assembly of claim 24, wherein the non-woven material comprises leather.

Appln. No.: 10/734,686  
Page 4

26. (Previously Presented) The fabric assembly of claim 3, wherein the substrate further comprises a compressible material.
27. (Currently Amended) The fabric assembly of claim 26, wherein the woven fabric is laminated to the compressible material~~substrate further comprises a fabric laminated to the compressible material.~~
28. (Original) The fabric assembly of claim 3, wherein the flexible substrate comprises neoprene.
29. (Currently Amended) The ~~abrasion and wear resistant~~ fabric assembly of claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein the plurality of plates enhances the abrasion resistance of the flexible substrate by a selected factor.
30. (Currently Amended) The ~~abrasion and wear resistant~~ fabric assembly of claim ~~[[29]]~~1, wherein the plurality of plates comprises a material that selectively increases heat resistance of the flexible substrate.
31. (Currently Amended) The fabric assembly of claim ~~[[29]]~~1, wherein the ~~plate thickness~~gap width is approximately 5 to ~~[[40]]~~20 mils.
32. (Original) The fabric assembly of claim 29, wherein the plates comprise polymeric resin with tensile strength greater than 100 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>.
33. (Original) The fabric assembly of claim 29, wherein the factor ranges from 2 to 200.
34. (Original) The fabric assembly of claim 33, wherein the factor ranges from 5 to 100.
35. (Original) The fabric assembly of claim 34, wherein the factor ranges from 10 to 50.
36. (Original) The fabric assembly of claim 35, wherein the factor ranges from 12 to 30.

Appln. No.: 10/734,686  
Page 5

37-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) The fabric assembly of claim [[3]]1, wherein the substrate comprises a heat resistant fabric.

44. (Previously Presented) The fabric assembly of claim 7, wherein the polygon is an octagon, a square, a diamond, or a triangle.

45. (Withdrawn) The fabric assembly of claim 1, wherein the flexible substrate comprises a knit fabric.

46. (Currently Amended) The fabric assembly of claim [[3]]1, wherein the polymeric resin further comprises an additive selected to increase the abrasion resistance of the fabric assembly, wherein the additive comprises at least one of alumina particles, titanium particles, and ceramic beads.